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Groups push for new park

CITY PLANNING

Green would stretch from Saskatchewan Drive to Whyte



Community advocates hope to convince all players involved to back a new park in Old Strathcona, stretching from Whyte Avenue all the way to the River Valley.

The Old Strathcona Business Association and the Old Strathcona Foundation have drafted concept plans for the new park, bordered by Gateway Boulevard and 102 Street.

Karen Tabor, executive

director of the foundation, said it would create big possibilities. "There is huge potential to increase the number of festival opportunities that could take place."

The proposed site, which would incorporate the current parking lot for the Farmers Market, would have new park space and would allow the Edmonton Radial Rail Society to extend their streetcar to Whyte Avenue.

"It makes it much more visible and user-friendly for people to take the streetcar both ways," Tabor said.

Murray Davison, with the business association, said their proposal would create other parking spaces around the park, but breaking up the Farmers Market parking lot would be great.

"I think animating this place



This drawing shows what the proposed park could look like. CONTRIBUTED

in the middle and increasing vibrancy more than just once every week is huge for the community."

Davison said right now, the area divides the community and there is a real potential with just a small investment.

ALL PHOTOS: KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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Tempest in a pothole



One Edmonton city street received something of a makeover Tuesday after a local radio station planted flowers in potholes. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Guerrilla gardener



Leah Holiday
Metro | Edmonton

Ryan Maier, a DJ with the The Bear, claimed responsibility for the "guerrilla gardening" on 125 Street this week.

It's part of a monthly effort to do random good deeds around the

city, he said.

"This good deed in particular just seemed to fit nicely, what with the excessive amounts of potholes," Maier said in an email.

"We figured that for one, this would definitely be a caution sign for those who could potentially hit these monster potholes, and at the very least, people passing by might get a kick out of the sight."

This week, a radio station planted flowers in potholes in Edmonton, linking our city to many others around the world using potholes as ways to communicate fun or frustration. Some, however, weren't impressed.

+ LOCAL REACTION

Neighbourhood reacts

Nearby resident Ryan Gordey said he wasn't expecting to see flowers filling the streets Tuesday, but doesn't mind the change.

"I'm surprised nobody's driven over the big one yet."

Gordey said potholes aren't too bad in front of his house, but they do get worse down the street.

"I think we're getting our streets renewed next year or the year after. They're obviously at the end of their life span and with all the traffic through with 124 (Street) now, there's a lot of cars."



"Single Scoop Ice Cream Cone" by Chicago artist Jim Bachor is seen in Finland. The piece is part of his latest work called "Treats in the Streets," planted flowers in potholes. SUPPLIED

+ PAST TROUBLES

City not impressed

City of Edmonton spokeswoman Laura McNabb said this isn't the first time flowers have been planted in a pothole. A similar stunt took place last year.

"As people are swerving to try and avoid the flowers or slowing down to look at the flowers, they're risking not only pedestrian safety, but motorist safety at the same time."

"Not only do they put their own safety in jeopardy when they do that, they put the safety of motorists and pedestrians in jeopardy," she said.

9,242

The total number of pothole complaints according to 311 explorer so far in 2015.

\$769

The city pays out an average amount of \$769 if a pothole damage claim is accepted.

455K

About 455,000 new potholes appear on average each year on Edmonton streets, according to city data from the last nine years.

16.1%

Over nine years, the city paid out 16.1 per cent of the total 643 pothole damage claims that it received.

COUNTER-TERROR

Police unveil new plan



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton Police hope to keep public fears at bay with their new counter-terrorism strategy, but one city councillor worries the discussion will just raise alarm.

Insp. Chad Tawfik outlined the strategy to the police commission Thursday night, with an emphasis on early outreach to communities to prevent radicalization and working with the RCMP on cases that could lead to real violence.

Tawfik said with so much going on in the world, it's important residents are assured the force is addressing the problem.

"We want our community to be safe and to feel safe and not have fear that something will happen," he said.

Coun. Scott McKeen said he is worried police discussion of terrorism cases will raise public fears.

"It has to be done with real caution and responsibility, because you are creating fear by talking about anti-terrorism in Edmonton," he said. "Language is really powerful, watch that language please."

Tawfik said the force is very clear not to target any one community when watching for radicalization.

"It's about extremist behaviour. It's not about a specific religion or a specific race," he said.

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The Edmonton Ski Club's plan outlines changes for the winter season. CONTRIBUTED

Ski club first to be accessible by LRT

TRANSPORTATION

Facility sees opportunity in future stop



Stephanie Dubois
Metro | Edmonton

The future construction of the Valley Line LRT will require changes to bridges and other

features, and those have elicited outrage among some — but not from the 100-year-old Edmonton Ski Club.

Instead, the club, located close to a future LRT stop in the Cloverdale neighbourhood, sees potential in proximity.

The new stop will make the facility the first ski hill in North America to be accessible via light rail, said Ken Saunders, the club's president.

"There's definite opportunity. From your business com-

+ MEETING

The ski club is discussing their plan in detail on May 25 at their annual meeting.

as increasingly linked to the downtown core's revitalization through the LRT, and becoming a year-round recreation facility. Part of the vision proposes a new clubhouse and new amenities.

A mountain bike park and a fitness centre are also part of what Saunders stressed is an "ample opportunity" to change the image of the 100-year-old ski club.

"It will help put us on the map. I really do believe it."

muter stopping at the club on the way in to do a workout, or imagine the school groups or underprivileged able to access the facility."

The club has released a vision for the future that sees it

TASK FORCE

Lower fees urged for body rub parlours



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

A task force on body rub parlours is recommending the city charge lower licensing fees for workers and operators in an attempt to bring them into the regulated

world and keep them out of the illicit sex trade.

Coun. Scott McKeen, who was council's representative on the task force, said the task force's strategy, released Thursday, is one of harm reduction.

"The recommendations are an attempt to reduce the number of illicit operations and anonymous

classified ads and bring this into a realm where it can be more closely monitored to ensure better safety," he said.

The report suggests some high fees and regulatory hurdles the city has for operators and employees are creating a disincentive to work in licensed parlours.

It also recommends more en-

forcement to make sure rules are being followed, and that the city develop zoning that would keep parlours out of residential neighbourhoods.

McKeen said he wants to see the city implement this change, because even when they're well run, body rub parlours can create a stigma for neighbourhoods.



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TRANSIT DESERTS IN EDMONTON

A transit desert is similar to a food desert — an area of a city underserved by a crucial amenity — and Edmonton has many of them. After the concept was posted to Facebook, residents told Edmonton Transit about the most glaring examples. Here are the top five. **STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO**

1 **Millwoods**

Social-media comments suggest the area lacks frequent and punctual buses. A user noted bus route 60 as one of the inconsistent lines.

2 **Westmount**

Comments about this neighbourhood, close to Kingsway Mall, centred on late-night service. Some said it can be difficult to go east or west after 6 p.m. and during off-peak hours, such as on weekends.



SUPPLIED

3 **Northwest industrial area**

Users complained of limited transit coverage to the industrial park, where many work and have to rely on St. Albert transit to get into Edmonton.

4 **Windermere**

One of the city's newest and growing areas is still lacking adequate transit service, according to rider comments.

5 **Callingwood**

Getting from the west-end neighbourhood to downtown or LRT stations is difficult, riders said, adding that non-peak hours and weekends are often problematic to catch a bus.



A fundraiser for victims of the earthquake. CONTRIBUTED

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

St. Albert pair to be honoured

Kathryn and Bruce Macmillan, who were killed in the Nepal earthquake in April, will be remembered at a Celebration of Life on June 12 in St. Albert.

The event, for close family and friends, follows a fundraiser this week at Lahari Yoga, which raised \$800 for Red Cross earthquake-relief efforts.

"The couple's sons were part of the beautiful outdoor karma community event; they're a tribe of loving souls," said Lahari owner Larissa Whiting.

She said the Macmillans, who practised yoga in the city, had mentioned the St. Albert studio to their son Frazer before they left on their travels, so the whole event came together in a natural way. **METRO**

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ALBERTA MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



Alberta Health Services is launching an online support forum to offer women with gynecological cancer a place to talk about their disease. METRO FILE

Let's talk about cancer survival

ONLINE FORUM

Researchers aim to provide better support for survivors



Leah Holoday
Metro | Edmonton

When Liza Sunley was diagnosed with ovarian cancer nearly 13 years ago, she found nowhere to turn for support.

"It was hard to find someone who was in the same boat as me," she said. "I found a lot of people were not talking about those types of cancers at the time."

Flash forward to 2015 and Alberta Health Service researchers are working to ensure women don't face the same challenge Sunley did, by studying what

supports women with gynecological cancer need.

"It's obvious treating the cancer is just part of treating the illness and the recovery process," said Dr. Ericka Wiebe, a co-investigator in the study and an oncologist at Edmonton's Cross Cancer Institute. "It does leave a lot of lasting side effects and real changes for patients."

The study — which will include a 12-week online forum led by researchers in Calgary and Edmonton — will offer participants a chance to talk about how their intimate relationships and self-esteem are affected by the cancer.

While patients are grateful for their treatment, Wiebe said the disease often changes the idea of body image, sexual health and even relationships, which don't get discussed in a follow-up doctor's appointments.

"I think we're just starting to pay more attention to survivor-

+ STUDY

Researchers are looking for 80 women who are interested in participating in the online study.

ship and late effects," she said.

"Up to now, we've been so focused on treating the cancer that we haven't spent much time looking at the aftermath and how we might better manage concerns patients have."

Now 40, Sunley said when she was first diagnosed at 27 years old, a major concern was her fertility and body image.

"You know rationally just because they are going to remove these organs, it doesn't make you any less of a woman, but then when I had the surgery... I was surprised with how much it made me question things," she said.

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SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

NDP withdraws link to donations

Supporters invited to attend Sunday's swearing-in ceremony of Premier-designate Rachel Notley and her 11 NDP cabinet colleagues should not have been prompted to donate, the party said Thursday.

Initially, according to the Calgary Herald, an emailed invitation for the event planned on the Alberta Legislature grounds feature an RSVP button that then linked people onto a donation page.

Faced with questions about the link to what is a non-partisan event, the party stripped the link, the Herald reports.

Alberta NDP spokesperson Cheryl Oates confirmed the link to Metro but said it was an error.

"We will continue to spread the word about the public

swearing-in ceremony through a variety of mediums, including connecting with party members, but the link from the RSVP page to the donation page was a mistake and has been corrected," she said.

Wildrose Leader Brian Jean deemed the donation link, "unseemly and inappropriate."

"Rachel Notley needs to remember that the government belongs to all Albertans and not to the donors or activists of her party," he said in a statement. "This is the sort of behaviour that led to Albertans dumping the PC party this election. You cannot use the first official action of a government to fill your political party's coffers — it's wrong and it should not have happened."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

DECLASSIFIED

Bin Laden library includes U of C prof

Your average book-writing academic might be delighted to have a celebrity reader.

Barry Cooper's case is a little different.

He's far less gracious when asked about a famous person who apparently owned his book: "If I had a chance to kill him," the Canadian political scientist says, "I would've."

His famous reader was supposedly Osama bin Laden.

According to a newly declassified list from the U.S. government, the terrorist leader had 39 English-language books in his Pakistani compound when he was killed by special forces in 2011.

One of those books was written by Cooper. Bin Laden's library apparently included the University of Calgary professor's, New Pol-

itical Religions, or an Analysis of Modern Terrorism.

Cooper didn't believe it when a journalist first called him this week to share the news. He teaches political philosophy, not counter-terrorism, and responded skeptically: "I thought it was a hoax."

He has no idea whether bin Laden actually read the book. But he's quite sure he wouldn't have enjoyed its unsympathetic view of terrorism's causes.

"I'm sure he didn't like it if he did read it — I can take some comfort in that."

Cooper's book argues that terrorists intentionally distort religion to justify their acts — and that they're perfectly well aware that they're making up excuses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A chemical pathway worked on for years by researchers, including some graduate students at the University of Calgary, has, in theory, allowed for the creation of painkilling drugs using yeast and sugar. METRO FILE

Fears of 'baking bad'

SCIENCE

Work of former U of C student used in 'home-brew' heroin



Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Some of the groundbreaking research that opens the door for home-brewed drugs, including heroin, can be traced back to the work done by a small group of graduate students at the University of Calgary.

Now, in theory, at least, specially engineered yeast and sugar could be used to make morphine and, by extension, heroin.

A commentary on the matter, published in the journal Nature

this week, has drawn a great deal of attention — and concern — from fellow scientists, professors and even the FBI.

Cited in the article is a thesis from former University of Calgary biological sciences graduate student Guillaume Beaudoin titled "Oxidative Enzymes Involved in the Biosynthesis of Benzylisoquinoline Alkaloids in Opium Poppy."

Put somewhat simply, researchers had worked to develop sugar into a molecule called S-Reticulene and another group had figured out how to convert a molecule called R-Reticulene into morphine.

Beaudoin and his peers completed the chain by determining how to turn S-reticulene into R-Reticulene.

"The first step to the last step, everything was known except for the last step we found," he said. "At first, it was a pipe

dream; there were a number of steps missing. Now there's none. Conceptually, it (using yeast to produce morphine) is feasible."

But the Nature commentators, including University of Alberta professor Tania Bubela, warn that while there could be benefits from the pathway in the form of cheaper legal drug production, it could also lead to production of dangerous substances, namely heroin.

No scientist has yet reported a successful attempt to make morphine from the yeast and sugar brew.

But the research is on the FBI's radar, with agents fearing it could lead to "home-brew" heroin. The New Yorker reported concerns from Edward You, an

agent with the law enforcement agency's biological countermeasures unit, who dubbed the scenario of morphine-producing yeast "baking bad."

For his part, Beaudoin said he sees the economic benefits and the potential to produce new drugs. He noted some opiate derivatives can actually be used on patients to counteract the effects of drug overdoses.

"It's just one example of what you can do with this type of molecule," he said. "It can do bad things, but it can also do a lot of good."

Beaudoin, who's originally from Montreal, has since moved on the from the U of C and is in Florida doing research on metabolic damage and repair.

WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Saunders' death inspires changes

NOVA SCOTIA

University sets up supports for aboriginal students



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Just over a year after her murder, Loretta Saunders' legacy has created change for aboriginal students at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, N.S.

Saunders attended Saint Mary's while working on her thesis about missing and murdered aboriginal women for her honours sociology degree, and on Thursday the school released their President's Task Force Report on Aboriginal Students that includes 17 recommendations.

Dr. Peter Twohig chaired the task force and said Saunders' murder last February caused the school to reflect on what programs and supports were available to aboriginal students.

"Educational institutions are

an important part of the colonial context," Twohig, a professor of history, and Atlantic Canada studies, said Thursday.

"If we really want to begin to have transformational change, now's the time to start and we should start in our own house."

Saint Mary's outgoing president, Dr. Colin Dodds, had called for the task force in April and received their report in September, Twohig said.

The school has already acted on two recommendations by allotting funding to hire a full-time aboriginal student adviser, and establishing an Aboriginal Advisory Council that will review and decide how to roll out the other points in the report.

From there, Twohig said it's especially important to set up an Aboriginal Student Centre not only as a place for studying, but somewhere young people can feel comfortable and engage in cultural practices or have access to aboriginal

mentors and staff.

Other recommendations include appointing an university elder or elder-in-residence who would provide spiritual and practical support, creating a University Chair in Indigenous Studies, increasing outreach activities to bring younger aboriginal people on campus, acknowledging SMU's spot in the

Mi'kmaq region through campus signs and flying the Mi'kmaq flag outside the McNally Building, and developing courses more relevant to the aboriginal community.

"We're not just talking about courses on the political science ... or history of aboriginal communities," Twohig said.

"Maybe courses in Sobey School (of Business) that could talk about entrepreneurialism in a reserve context ... indigenous science and indigenous ecology."

Increasing the number of professors, experts and visiting

"We need to ... ensure that the faculty reflects the diversity of Canada."

Dr. Peter Twohig



Sharon Armstrong, of Ottawa, takes part in a vigil on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on March 5, 2014, for Loretta Saunders and to call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

speakers from an aboriginal background is important so students see themselves reflected, Twohig said. The same

goes for African Nova Scotian or international students, too, he added.

"That can often be a source

of inspiration or at least a beginning point for dialogue, and I think it's a wonderful thing," he said.

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There can be no reason to join terrorists: PM

PUBLIC SAFETY

Harper heralds new funding to keep closer eye on suspects

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says there is "no legitimate reason of any kind" for Canadians to become involved in jihadist or terrorist movements.

Harper was in Montreal on Thursday to announce funds for the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in the fight against terrorism.

The RCMP will receive \$150.4 million over five years, beginning in 2015-16, and \$46.8 million a year after, with the money going to help the Mounties conduct terrorism-related criminal investigations.

The border-services agency will get \$5.4 million over five years and \$1.1 million annually in subsequent years, with some of the funds earmarked for identifying high-risk travellers.

While the Prime Minister's Office described the money as "new" and "additional," the Finance Department said later the funds had been announced in the recent federal budget but that the specific details outlined on Thursday for the RCMP and the CBSA were new.

Harper was speaking at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, where 10 youths were arrested last weekend after being suspected of wanting to leave Canada to join jihadist groups.

"Obviously we have great sympathy for the families affected, but let us be clear: We have a great country here. We



Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Montreal on Thursday, announcing funds for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canada Border Services Agency in the fight against terrorism. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

have a country that is unparalleled in terms of its freedom, its democracy, its openness and its tolerance," the prime minister told reporters after making his announcement.

"And there is no legitimate reason of any kind in this country for someone to become a violent jihadist or a terrorist or to join any kind of group that is involved (in) or advocates that kind of activity.

"It is totally unacceptable to Canada and Canadians and unacceptable to this government."

Violent jihadism is not a



It is no secret this is an ongoing battle. (ISIL) poses a great threat.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

future trend but a current reality in Canada and around the world, Harper said, adding that the funds will be important in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

In recent days, ISIL militants have been on the advance, seizing the city of Ramadi in Iraq and the central Syrian town of Palmyra.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney has described the fall of Ramadi as a setback for the Iraqi military, but added it shouldn't be seen as a sign the coalition is losing the fight against ISIL.

Harper was asked in general about such advances and what the implications are for coalition forces.

"The reason the international

community has intervened in Iraq is the serious threat that (ISIL) poses," he replied.

"We've had some successes, but at the same time it is no secret this is an ongoing battle, this organization poses a great threat and continues to pose a great threat, obviously to security in Iraq and Syria.

"But as long as it has a substantial territory it is occupying, it will want to use that as a base from which to launch terrorist attacks against this country."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds fail to stop challenge over Senate vacancies

The federal government has lost a bid to thwart a court challenge aimed at compelling Prime Minister Stephen Harper to fill Senate vacancies.

The case was launched by Vancouver lawyer Aniz Alani, who maintains the unfilled vacancies are unconstitutional, leaving provinces underrepresented and the Senate less able to carry out its constitutional role as the chamber of sober second thought.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservatives snub talks with debate broadcasters

The game of election-debate chicken continues. The Liberals, NDP, Greens and Bloc have reached an agreement in principle with the TV consortium that has traditionally organized the debates. The Conservatives were not at a meeting Thursday with the broadcasters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court rules on lack of aboriginal jurors

The manslaughter conviction of an aboriginal man should not be overturned because of a lack of aboriginal jurors, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday.

In a 5-2 decision, the court found that an Ontario community made reasonable efforts to ensure the jury had adequate aboriginal representation — and that what matters is the effort, not the ultimate result.

Clifford Kokopenace had been found guilty of stabbing a friend to death on the Grassy Narrows reserve. His jury was selected from 175 potential jurors, only eight of whom were on-reserve residents. None of those made it on to the jury. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A worker prepares an oil containment boom at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Thursday. JAE C. HONG/AP PHOTO

Oil cleanup underway

OIL SPILL

Crude slick stretched nine miles along California coast

More than 7,700 gallons (29,000 litres) of oil have been raked, skimmed and vacuumed from a spill stretching across nine miles (14 kilometres) of California coast, just a fraction of the sticky crude that escaped from a ruptured pipeline, officials said Thursday.

Up to 105,000 gallons (400,000 litres) may have leaked from the pipeline Tuesday, and up to 21,000 gallons reached the sea just northwest of Santa Barbara, according to estimates from the pipeline operator.

The environmental impact was still being assessed, but there was no immediate evidence of widespread harm to birds and sea life.

The early toll on wildlife included five oil-covered pelicans, which were taken in to be cleaned, officials said. Biologists counted dead fish and crustaceans along sandy beaches and rocky shores.

The spill occurred along a long, rustic coast that forms the northern boundary of the Santa Barbara Channel,

home to a rich array of sea life. Whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, sea otters and birds use the waters between the mainland and the Channel Islands, five of which are a national park surrounded by a national marine sanctuary.

The coastline was the scene of a much larger spill in 1969 — the largest in U.S. waters at the time — that is credited with giving rise to the American environmental movement.

Workers in protective suits shovelled black sludge off beaches, and boats towed

booms into place to corral two oil slicks. The number of cleanup workers surpassed 300, and the number of boats working the slicks rose to 18, officials said.

They could get help from expected light winds and calm seas, said Sean Anderson, an environmental scientist at California State University, Channel Islands.

"When the water's choppy, the response gets complicated. But since the water's nice and flat, the oil sticks together and it's easier to spot and easier to pick up," he said.

Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams said the slicks were moving seaward, not toward other beaches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAPAN

Taiji won't end disputed dolphin hunt

The fishing town of Taiji will not stop its dolphin hunts, the mayor said Thursday, after Japan's aquariums decided to stop buying captured dolphins under international pressure sparked by cruelty concerns.

"We are hunting under the permission of the Japanese government and prefecture, and so we will continue to protect our fishermen and the methods. We will not quit," said Kazutaka Sangen, mayor of the

small town in central Japan.

Eating dolphin and whale meat is waning in Japan as people's tastes change, but some Japanese see it as no different from eating chicken or beef. They are puzzled by how the international view on dolphin and whale hunting is so different from that of traditional fishing communities like Taiji.

On Wednesday, the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums announced it would stop

buying Taiji dolphins. It had risked being suspended by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which characterized the Taiji hunt as "cruel" and decided that none of its members should acquire dolphins in such a way.

In Taiji's hunt, notoriously filmed in the Oscar-winning documentary *The Cove*, dolphins are scared with banging, herded into a cove and speared

by fishermen for their meat. The best-looking animals are sold to aquariums and marine shows for thousands of dollars each.

Sangen scoffed at WAZA's views. "WAZA gave in to the anti-whaling activists that turned dolphin hunting into an international problem. I believe there was a better way to handle the issue," he told reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MIGRANT CRISIS

Malaysia searches for lost boat people

Four Malaysian navy ships began searching the seas for stranded boat people Thursday, in the first official rescue operation since desperate migrants started washing onto Southeast Asia's shores, and a formerly reluctant Myanmar agreed to attend a regional meeting aimed at easing the crisis.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and Bangladeshis are believed to be trapped on boats with little food or water — some after being pushed back by the navies of at least three countries — and the international community has warned that time to save them is running out.

The announcement Thursday by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was the latest in a series of break-

throughs, including an offer by his country and Indonesia to provide temporary shelter to the desperate men, women and children until a more permanent solution is found.

He said he had ordered his navy and coast guard to conduct search-and-rescue efforts for other boats.

"We have to prevent loss of life," he tweeted.

Navy chief Abdul Aziz Jaafar said four vessels had been deployed, and three helicopters and three other ships were on standby.

Myanmar, which earlier hinted it would skip a regional meeting in Thailand next week bringing together representatives of more than a dozen nations, changed course Thursday, saying it would attend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

ISIL takes ancient site of Palmyra

Fears mounted over the fate of one of the Mideast's most prominent archeological sites after ISIL militants overran the historic Syrian town of Palmyra, seizing control Thursday of its temples, tombs and colonnades within hours.

The takeover also expanded the extremists' hold, making them the single group controlling the most territory in Syria.

"The Syrian regime appears to be in terminal decline, and the Islamic State (of Iraq and the Levant), in its timing, is capitalizing on recent losses by government forces in the north and south," said Amr Al-Azm, an antiquities expert and professor at Shawnee State University in Ohio.

The militants overran the famed archeological site early

Thursday, just hours after seizing the nearby town in central Syria, activists and officials said.

They also captured Palmyra's airport and the notorious Tadmur prison, delivering a startling new defeat for President Bashar Assad, whose forces quickly retreated. Hundreds of Palmyra residents fled the town of 65,000, and many more were trying to escape, said Talal Barazi, the governor of central Homs province.

An oasis set in the Syrian desert, Palmyra is a strategic crossroads linking the capital Damascus and cities to the east and the west. Its capture raised alarm over some of the world's most important ancient ruins, whose fate remained unknown Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Members of the Yes Equality campaign begin canvassing Thursday in the centre of Dublin, Ireland. People from across the Republic of Ireland will vote Friday in a referendum on the legalization of gay marriage, a vote that pits the power of the Roman Catholic Church against the secular-minded Irish government of Enda Kenny. PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premier to Ireland: Vote for gay marriage

REFERENDUM

Opinion polls suggest Yes side will win

Prime Minister Enda Kenny is urging Ireland's voters to support the legalization of gay marriage in a referendum that pits the power of the Catholic Church against his secular-minded government.

Speaking on the eve of Friday's nationwide vote, Kenny said Ireland could "create history" by becoming the first nation to cast a popular vote for gay marriage.

Kenny said voters' approval of a constitutional amendment to legalize gay marriage would represent an Irish civil rights breakthrough "that for generations gay people could never imagine."

"The 'Yes' will obliterate, publicly, the remaining barriers of prejudice or the irrational fear of the 'them' and 'us' in this regard," said Kenny, a devout Catholic who nonetheless during his four years in power has pushed to reduce the church's influence on policy and state services.

Eight opinion polls taken since the campaign opened in March suggest that the "Yes"

“My voting ‘No’ is not a vote against gay and lesbian people. It’s against changing the definition of marriage.”

Dublin Archbishop
Diarmuid Martin

campaign should win. Kenny's government is holding a referendum because it's considered legally necessary to

add an explicit amendment to the country's 1937 constitution before lawmakers can pass the relevant legislation.

All political parties and most lawmakers are on the "Yes" side. That lopsided reality, common in Irish referendums, has rebounded in previous contests when some voters, confused by the issue at hand or alienated from the political establishment, voted "No" in protest.

Catholic leaders and conservative pressure groups are arguing that legalization could produce surprising repercussions in Irish courts that could undermine traditional marriages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Elephant selfie goes global

PHOTOGRAPHY

Unexpected encounter leads to world's first 'elphie'

A British Columbia man got the vacation photo of a lifetime in Thailand — and he can't even take credit for it.

Christian LeBlanc was feeding an elephant when the animal grabbed his GoPro camera, set to continuous shooting, and snapped a photo with its trunk.

The snapshot, which LeBlanc is calling the world's first elephant selfie — or "elphie" — has gone viral after the 22-year-old recently posted it on Instagram.

The University of British Columbia student and his girlfriend were travelling on the island of Koh Phangan two months ago when they came across a couple of elephants.

LeBlanc says baskets of ba-



Christian LeBlanc, a 22-year-old from B.C., says he was feeding this elephant in Thailand when it grabbed his GoPro camera and snapped an 'elphie.' HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

nanas were being sold for 50 cents to feed the pachyderms, but one of the elephants became touchy when they ran out of food.

He says he was in shock when the animal grabbed his camera.

"Elephants are incredibly in-

telligent, and it definitely makes you wonder if it was a conscious action," he said in an email.

LeBlanc still can't believe the worldwide media coverage the photo has attracted.

"The global attention has been a total joy ride." THE CANADIAN PRESS



WALRUS CAM VIDEO STREAM UP AND RUNNING AFTER A DECADE OF DORMANCY

A popular webcam showing male Pacific walrus lying on the beach is once again streaming on the Internet. The high-definition stream from Alaska's remote Round Island had been dormant for nearly a decade after private funding ran out. But thanks to the philanthropic organization explore.org, the cam is again up and running. COURTESY EXPLORE.ORG

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Shopify's shares jump 51 per cent

E-COMMERCE

Ottawa-based company's IPO priced each share at \$17

Shares of Shopify climbed 51 per cent in the company's first day of trading Thursday, one day after raking in \$131 million in its initial public offering, more than expected.

Shopify Inc. stock rose \$8.68 to close at \$25.68. The offering of 7.7 million shares priced at \$17 each, valuing the entire company at around \$1.27 billion.

The Canadian company works with merchants who want to offer their own online checkout services, providing a platform for small- and mid-size businesses that sell products online. Clients can use Shopify's software to handle sales made through mobile phones, the web and physical stores.

The jump put Shopify on pace for one of the strongest first days among companies that went public in 2015. The biggest gainers have been cancer drug developer Aduro Biotech Inc. and Shake Shack Inc., both of which more than doubled on their first day of trading. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Shopify CEO Tobias Lutke, centre wearing hat, rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell on Thursday, marking the Canadian company's IPO. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ 4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SHOPIFY

E-Commerce: Shopify targets small- and medium-sized business with software for designing, building and managing sales across the web, mobile applications and stores. Its 165,000 customers in 150 countries include Tesla Motors and the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers.

Humble beginnings: The company grew from three Ottawa men looking to sell snowboarding equipment online. The platform they

built turned into Shopify. In 2006, they began offering its services to other.

Growth: Originally five people, Shopify now has more than 500 employees in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The company's new headquarters in downtown Ottawa can accommodate 740 employees.

Business model: Around 60 per cent of Shopify's revenue comes from selling subscriptions to its platform. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wealth gap affects growth, OECD says

The widening gap between haves and have-nots in much of the developed world is holding back economic growth, according to a new global study.

Far from a rising tide lifting all ships, income inequality increases in good economic times as well as bad, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says. An increase in income inequality between 1985 and

2005 knocked 4.7 percentage points off cumulative growth between 1990 and 2010 across its 34 members, it concluded.

Policies to improve women's treatment in the labour market and measures to reverse the growing share of low-quality, "dead-end" jobs are key to reducing income inequality and unlocking more economic growth, the OECD said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mideast youth job market tight

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Unemployment rate of 29.5% is world's highest

Fawziyeh Sharif and dozens of other young women who make jeans for the U.S. market in a factory in the village of Kitteh in northern Jordan consider themselves lucky — even though they spend 48 hours a week bent over sewing machines for minimum wage.

Sharif, 24, landed her first-ever job when the Ivory Garments Factory opened last year in an area where options had been limited to men joining the army and women staying home.

Yet for millions of young people in the Middle East and North Africa, jobs remain out of reach and the problem has only worsened in the post-Arab Spring turmoil.

Starting Thursday, political and business leaders from 58 countries are coming together for a regional conference of the World Economic Forum and Mideast youth unemploy-



Jordanian women sew jeans for the U.S. market in a garment factory in the village of Kitteh in northern Jordan. The factory has created employment in an area where options had largely been limited to men joining the army and women staying home. RAAD ADAYLEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ment will be on the agenda.

The problem has been debated for years, but has taken on even greater urgency with the growing appeal of militant ideas among desperate young

people and the extremist Islamic State group's land grab in Syria and Iraq.

Widespread joblessness creates fertile ground for recruitment by militants, said Samir

Murad, a former Jordanian labour minister. There is a risk that if the unemployed "don't find a decent living, they look for the alternatives, and the alternative is the so-called Is-

lamic State," he said.

There are many reasons why the young are unemployed.

A "youth bulge" has created a rising demand for jobs that cannot be met at a time of tepid economic growth blamed on low oil prices and prolonged conflict.

Outdated education systems with emphasis on learning by rote are creating graduates who often lack skills sought by the private sector.

Old social contracts in which autocratic governments serve as the largest employers and buy acquiescence with large-scale subsidies of food and fuel have been breaking down.

Jordan has one of the region's lowest rates of women in the workforce because of constraints imposed by a largely traditional society.

To get around the cultural sensitivities, the garment factory in the northern village of Kitteh employs 82 women, but no local men.

The factory looks like a classroom — except that sewing machines are placed on desks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ PYRAMID

Cultural factors play role in labour mismatches

Jordanians traditionally shun socially stigmatized blue-collar jobs in construction and agriculture, leaving those to be filled by hundreds of thousands of migrant workers and Syrian refugees — despite a national unemployment rate of 13 per cent and youth unemployment of more than 30 per cent.

Only about 30,000 young Jordanians are currently enrolled in vocational schools that produce badly needed plumbers and carpenters, while more than 10 times as many study at universities. Once they graduate, many of the more educated struggle to find jobs, said Samir Murad, a former labour minister.

"It should be the opposite," he said. "The pyramid is totally inverted."



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The government love sleuth's guide to spotting true passion

We're lucky we've got the government to judge and sanction modern love.

Just look at a Citizenship and Immigration Canada training document from 2007 — revealed this week — which offers tips on how to spot “non-genuine marital relationships.”

The extra tool to counter “an observed temporary spike in cases of marriages of convenience,” as a spokesperson put it, undoubtedly helped immigration officers in Ottawa cubicles identify the real deal, before conditions changed a few years ago. And since what is love internationally is love domestically, it's helpful for us all.

For example, Chinese nationals marrying non-Chinese are suspicious. Restaurant receptions are dubious. No honeymoon, “not even a couple of days away”? Likely, no love. Oh, and diamonds, in ring form, are obligatory.

An age difference of more than 10 years (like that of my long-married parents) is a red flag. A lack of photos equals a lack of romance. And different ethnic and education backgrounds show lovers are pulling a scam. After all, in modern times, like marriages like.

The document also clarifies that money DOES buy love, and is in fact key to its veracity. Sparing no cost on a wedding isn't cliché — it's

credible.

Of course, this all makes it hard for poor people to avoid a sham marriage. And sadly, it means a few of my friends have love that's a lie.

Like the Canadians who eloped in Austin, Texas, using rings they already owned. And the ones who wed at a cottage without parents or professional photos.

I have bad news, too, for my friend who married a man from India, possibly one of those “very poor” countries that are a source of frauds looking for a better life. After all, the “more they have to gain, the higher the bar is to satisfy the bona fides.”

Thank God I'm with an American; someone who “doesn't gain that much.” I'm even grateful this document was released (via an access to information request). It will help us plan the right romantic evidence for the government love sleuth.

For instance, we won't use photos of us in pyjamas or cooking — like my colleague did on her application. They're an obvious attempt to prove fake cohabitation. She had to cough up better proof.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, let it be said, has a very tough job measuring love. And if our non-traditional, on-the-cheap, interracial and sans-family weddings just don't match the state's ideals, we know who's wrong.

Happy face/Sad face

From **mangled maps** to **Arctic adventures**, Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week



Multiple Maritime map mix-ups

A Calgary tour company had to apologize twice this week for bungling maps of two provinces. A brochure from Anderson Vacations advertised three Newfoundland landmarks — Deer Lake, Main Brook, and the capital, St. John's — on a map of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. The company said sorry a second time for a map that identified St. John's, N.L. as Saint John, a city in New Brunswick. [CBC.ca](#)



Missing man safe after 60km Arctic trek

Parks Canada employee Brian Koonoo, who was reported missing May 15 from Hall Beach, Nunavut, turned up this week after a four-day search through freezing temperatures and blowing snow. Koonoo, an expert hunter, lost his radio. His snowmobile broke down and his GPS ran out of batteries. With help of a map app, on Wednesday at 5:30 a.m., he arrived on foot at his destination, Repulse Bay, after a 60-km stroll. [CBC.ca](#)



Pot may be bad news for boys' growth

Smoking marijuana early in life can interfere with boys' development, says a new study from the European Society of Endocrinology. Researchers measured hormones in the blood of 220 non-smoking and 217 marijuana-addicted boys. Puberty hormones were elevated, and growth hormones depressed, in marijuana smokers. The non-smokers were an average four kilograms heavier and 4.6 inches taller by age 20. [SCIENCEDAILY.COM](#)



Teen hailed for healthy invention

Forget baking-soda volcanoes: A Vancouver student invented a way to curb global epidemics for his science project — and now he's \$75,000 US richer. Raymond Wang, 17, won first prize at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Friday. He created a new air circulation system to redirect air to give everyone their own breathing space in aircraft cabins. [THE CANADIAN PRESS](#)

Thanks, Air Canada, for the laugh at others' pain

THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



Do you ever find yourself deriving pleasure in other people's misfortunes? Like when you run into an ex-boyfriend who, for every hair he's lost, has gained a pound? There's a term for this perverse glee. It's called *schadenfreude* (from the German words *schaden*, for “damage” and *freude*, meaning “joy”). Well, I had some major damage-joy this week when I heard Air Canada was going to start cracking down on carry-on luggage. That's right, as of next week, Air Canada will be carefully inspecting your carry-on. If it's too big, they'll charge you \$25 to check it.

Now, you might be thinking, “Rebecca, you idiot,

you're also going to suffer — you are deriving pleasure from your own misfortune.” But here's the thing, I won't. I won't suffer from this new rule because I was never one of those people who tried to bring my refrigerator onto the plane. My bags were always the appropriate size because I'm what they call a “rule-follower” (a.k.a. a brown-noser).

I tried a few times to bring my overnight clothes on board but almost every time I'd get singled out and be forced to check my bag at the gate. It's like when I travel, I turn into Mr. Bean and nothing goes my way. Flight attendants would stop me and tell me my bag was too big. Meanwhile, I'd see another person get on board with a cello and a pet elephant.

One time, as I boarded, I was told there was no overhead space left — a situa-

tion familiar to those who are often last to board (not-rich people). I checked my tiny suitcase, but when I got to my seat, I was shocked to find the overhead bin empty — while this is the kind of irony that made Alanis Morissette famous, all it caused for me was severe irritation.

Since giving up on trying to bring an extra set of undies on board, I have gritted my teeth while watching others get away with carry-on murder: “laptop” bags that could fit a desktop computer from 1988, or those people who affix two small suitcases together so it looks like one (you know who you are).

And because of those people, often — by the time I get on board with my modest but cool Herschel backpack — I can't even store it overhead and am forced to cram it down by my feet, giving me

I won't suffer under this new rule, because I was never one of those people who tried to bring my refrigerator onto the plane.

even less leg room than the centimetre I was allotted.

So, yeah, I can't wait for the next time I fly, when I will get to watch everyone else go through what, for some reason, I've been going through my entire life. See you at the baggage carousel, suckers!

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

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Tempted by Tomorrowland?

OPENING WEEKEND

Disney remains mum on plot details of their \$190M film

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



We're about to reach the tipping point of the summer and it's not even the end of May.

In a summer crowded with sequels like Avengers: Age of Ultron and Pitch Perfect 2; reboots like Terminator Genisys and Jurassic World; remakes like Poltergeist and Entourage — a TV show blown up for the big screen — along comes Tomorrowland, a big-budget film based on an original idea.

Not every film this year is a sequel, prequel or the like, but Tomorrowland, with a budget topping out at \$190 million, is the most expensive original film to come down the pike this year.

Borrowing its name from the futuristic themed land found at Disney parks, the movie stars George Clooney as a former boy genius, and Britt Robertson as a gifted teenager, who — according to the press materials — “travel to a place somewhere in time and space only known as Tomorrowland where their actions directly affect the world and themselves.”

Disney is deliberately keeping plot details under wraps, hoping the allure of mysterious trailers will draw people in. It's the opposite of the usual strategy of showcasing the film's highlights in a two-minute promo.

I was at the D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif. — imagine the Disney version of Comic Con — in 2013 when Brad Bird and Damon Lindelof unveiled the name of the movie, but little else.

In a splashy presentation they claimed a “dusty old box” labelled 1952, that was found in the Disney Imagineering archives, had inspired the story.

Containing a mysterious mishmash of items, including a 1928 copy of Amazing Stories magazine, a photograph of Walt Disney and Amelia Earhart allegedly taken after her disappearance, a short animated documentary and an unidentified metal object, they said the idea of the film is to ask “what if these mystery clues were real?”

Teasing the potential audience into buying tickets is an intriguing but risky idea. It's a risk Bird was willing to take. He turned down the chance to direct Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens, to make Tomorrowland, saying, “it's rare to do a film of this size that's original, so those opportunities can't be missed either.”

But will it be an opportunity that moviegoers will embrace? Suggesting that Hollywood only feels comfortable



Britt Robertson stars in Tomorrowland, the most expensive original film to come out this summer. CONTRIBUTED

with movies that are pre-sold via brand recognition is an understatement. Whether it is a familiar title with a num-

ber added or any movie from the mighty Marvel stable, the big studios aren't in the habit of taking chances and it's not

their fault. It's ours.

One of the main complaints I hear from people is that there are no interesting movies in release and yet Furious 7 and Age of Ultron have grossed amounts equal to the GNP of some small nations.

By supporting big-budget “branded” movies, we send the message that original stories don't interest us, only ones that give us what we expect.

While we have the chance,

why not take a chance on a movie that takes a risk?

That's the tipping point. Check out Tomorrowland or Ex Machina.

If sci-fi isn't your thing, how about Aloha or Inside Out? There is room for all kinds of movies but why not vote with your feet and let the studios know that their steady diet of sequels, prequels and reboots is quickly nearing its best-by date.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Tomorrowland ★★★
Welcome To Me ★★★★★
Banksy Does New York ★★★

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George Clooney: eternal optimist

TOMORROWLAND

He plays bitter in new sci-fi film, but inside he's nothing but hopeful



Ned Ehrbar
Metro|Life

George Clooney may be one of the few bona fide movie stars we have left, but he still thinks he's a bit out of place in the summer blockbuster arena.

"Putting me in a summer movie is a very bold thought," he says with his trademark smirk. "First and foremost, I think it's a really bold thing for Disney to be willing to do a film that isn't a sequel and isn't a comic book and truly invest in a summer film of this sort of ilk."

Which sort of ilk, exactly? Tomorrowland, directed by Brad Bird and written by Bird and Lost creator Damon Lindelof, features Clooney as "a former boy genius who's gotten bitter in his old age" — to hear Clooney himself describe it — who teams up with a precocious teen (Britt Robertson) to get back to the secret world of Tomorrowland, where the smartest minds



George Clooney stars in a new Disney film about trying to go back to the 1960s to make the world a better place. DISNEY 2015

disappeared back in the 1960s to build a better future.

"I opened up the description of the character — 'A 55-year-old has-been.' I'm kind of going, 'Wait, hey, hey, hang on a minute. Which part am I reading for?'"

Luckily, 54-year-old Clooney got over any lingering sense of vanity. "I just loved the idea," he says. "We live in a world right now where you turn on your television set and it's rough

out there and it's not fun, and it can really wear on you after a period of time. We see generations now feeling as if it's sort of hopeless in a way. What I love about it is it speaks to the idea that your future is not preordained and predestined, and that if you're involved, a single voice can make a difference — and I believe in that."

That 1960s optimism is something Clooney would like to see more of here in the 21st

century.

"What I loved about the film was that it reminds you that young people don't start out their lives cynical or angry or bigoted. You have to be taught all of those things. I watch the world now and think well, I see really good signs from young people out there and I feel as if the world will get better. I've always been an optimist. I've been a realist, but I've been an optimist about it."

NEW RELEASES

Actor infuses role with '60s swagger'

Making your mark as a bit player in an eye-popping, effects-laden Disney movie featuring George Clooney is no easy feat.

But that's what Montreal-born actor Matthew MacCaull set out to do with his brief appearance in the futuristic Tomorrowland, a kid-friendly adventure tale drawing on both the name and wondrous spirit of the other-worldly theme park.

Britt Robertson stars as a brilliant teen who finds a pin that transports her momentarily to what seems to be the future.

When she's zapped back to the present day she enlists the help of Clooney's character, a former boy genius named Frank Walker, in her bid to find this parallel world again.

MacCaull's character Dave Clark is a mysterious figure intent on protecting the secrets of Tomorrowland. He doesn't get much screen time, but MacCaull saw an opportunity to stand out nonetheless.

"I thought that he could be a really memorable character and I thought if I do my work right, he might be even an iconic character," MacCaull says.

"The answer was: Do as much work as you can. If you wake up in the middle of the night and you have an idea, get out of bed and work on it, don't wait. Just work on it right now. So there were definitely a couple of sleepless nights."

MacCaull began strategizing when he scored an audition, even though he had virtually no information on the role. He says he was only told a few key details — the name of the film, the name of the character and the fact that director Brad Bird (Ratatouille, The Incredibles) and screenwriter Damon Lindelof (Lost, Star Trek Into Darkness, Prometheus) were involved. The name Dave Clark immediately had him thinking about '60s English rockers The Dave Clark Five, so he decided to infuse the role with a "sort of '60s swagger."

"It was just one of those moments where an actor has to make a choice and actors always make choices," said the 37-year-old MacCaull, whose parents and family are from Prince Edward Island.

"And so I just thought, 'I think I've got some creative freedom here to make some bigger choices.' And luckily, I guess I was right."

MacCaull's big break comes after more than a decade of chipping away at background work, commercial auditions and bit parts in smaller productions. That's on top of a variety of day jobs including a stint as a travelling toilet brush salesman in Halifax, a trucker in the United Kingdom, and a lifeguard in Vancouver, which is still how he spends his summers.

"It was just so hard," MacCaull admits of his long road to establishing an acting career.

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Director: George Miller
Starring: Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron

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ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **Audience:**
 98% **92%**

On the darker side of funny

SOPHOMORE DIRECTOR

Shira Piven takes a risk in comedy about mental illness

Steve
Gow
For Metro

When Shira Piven went searching for a story to make her second movie, she came across a script that might have scared off a lot of other filmmakers. After all, *Welcome To Me* isn't just a comedy — it's a comedy about mental illness.

"I feel like the script was written with care," explained the sophomore director from Los Angeles. "It's definitely risky to make a movie that has funny elements about a woman who has borderline personality disorder, which is a very real thing, but there are lots of funny things

that happen in real life; lots of absurd moments that we all stumble into — even people with mental illness — so the tone of the script was very familiar to me."

Even so, Piven insists she was "extremely careful and respectful" in crafting the fictional comedy about unstable Alice Klieg (Kristen Wiig) — a woman who wins the lottery and, inspired by her idol Oprah Winfrey, buys herself a talk show in which to broadcast her own incredibly personal interests and issues.

"I think the mental illness illuminates the social illness in the movie," said Piven, referring to the parallels of Klieg's obsession with today's cultural infatuation to "broadcast" our lives through social media.

Piven also admits that casting Kristen Wiig was key to balancing that fine line between drawing laughs and simply treading on a sensitive social issue. Although Wiig is best known for crafting sidesplitting characters

from her days on *Saturday Night Live*, the *Bridesmaids* star portrays Alice Klieg with subdued poignancy.

"I was inspired by certain performances that I'd seen," says Piven, who specifically points to Martin Scorsese's 1982 film *The King of Comedy* in which comedians Jerry Lewis and Sandra Bernhard played serious parts. "They played it absolutely straight so they were fascinating. I find the darker side of funny people really fascinating (so) I felt that I wanted an actress like Kristen — an actress that really began in a comic place intuitively but could also go to more tragic, darker places."



I find the darker side of funny people really fascinating

Director Shira Piven



Kristen Wiig in the dark comedy *Welcome to Me*. CONTRIBUTED

ON THE SET

Wind Kristen Wiig up, and let her go

"That's your job as a director when you're working with good people," said Shira Piven of working with Kristen Wiig.

"Create an environment where they feel free to play and be their most free self. So a lot of time it was just about keeping a very relaxed atmosphere on set and making sure she felt safe and comfortable trying a lot of different things."

Improvising and flexing her comedy muscle

Co-produced by her longtime husband and filmmaker Adam McKay, Piven admits the Anchorman-director helped her flex her comedy muscle.

"He's got this kind of amazing method of directing comedy and when he produces, he always encourages directors to use improvisation and get alternate takes," said Piven.

"It's not entirely a comedy but definitely, (he) gave me more confidence to do more improvising."

COMEDY SEQUEL

Pitch Perfect 2 star Brittany Snow finds humour in having a nervous breakdown

The girls from *Pitch Perfect* are back, and if you think that Brittany Snow's character, Chloe, should have graduated by now, you're not wrong. For Snow, that meant playing a character pretending to be dumb enough not to graduate — all for the sake of a cappella.

Exactly how many years has your character been in college now?

Um ... she was a sophomore in the first one, so she's failed, I think, now three times? Yeah. She just loves being a Bella and just can't give it up. They wanted her to still be involved and unable to let go, and because she's had to stay in school to be a Bella she has to get more and more dumb.

How do you approach playing a character who is intentionally trying to seem dumb?

The way to play that is to make her not dumb. She believes wholeheartedly everything that she's saying, and she really passionately cares about these girls and this legacy. You see that in the first one and you definitely see that in this one, that she cares so much about this. It's

her entire life. She only sees what's in front of her and she doesn't see that eventually you have to move on.

Speaking of, where do you see her going after she finally leaves college?

Because she's an extremist and she only does things to 100 per cent, she probably would take it in the exact opposite way and really let go



Brittany Snow. CONTRIBUTED

of everything. I just have this image of her being a hippie, just living in a commune or, like, in a field, going to Burning Man.

But she would be, like, really into Burning Man, right?

She's really into Burning Man. She's doing all of the activities and everything. She's probably manning all the booths (laughs).

How did you find the right balance for the humour in this?

When we got the script it was very edgy, and I was extremely excited because it really didn't shy away from all things funny, no matter what or who it offended. A lot of that has been cut because we couldn't make that movie with a PG-13 rating.

What sort of offensive stuff are we talking about?

My character was drunk a lot of the time and jumping in the pool and going a little bit crazy, and that got cut as well. Chloe's definitely still having a nervous breakdown, but she's not drunk — which is unfortunate, because I really liked playing that.

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So long, TV greats, hello, old friend

FINALE

Enjoy a few slices, for old times' sake

THE TV DINNER

Jessica Allen



My partner Simon and I used to order a party-size pizza from Vesuvio in Toronto at least once a week. But because I've been mindful of what I eat since January, it's been a while. Okay, precisely 147 days.

How would I cope without it? It felt like the end of an era: a sentiment millions of viewers share after two great television shows, *Mad Men* and *Late Night* with David Letterman, have ended.

Mad Men adorers methodically look for meaning. In the third-last episode, for example, I noted that two characters said "for old times' sake." That's a line from *The Godfather*—remember when Tessio asks Tom to let him off the hook? Coincidentally, in that very episode Don Draper is



Jessica Allen commemorated the end of *Mad Men* and *Letterman* with a couple of slices from her favourite pizza joint. ABOVE AND BELOW: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; VESUVIO PIZZA SHOT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

reading *The Godfather*. Jackpot!

Other views, including Simon's, argue that while there are great moments—including the first season's Kodak Carousel scene when Draper's advertising magic seduces the client and the audience—they all come

undone on account of one of the stupidest backstories in all of television.

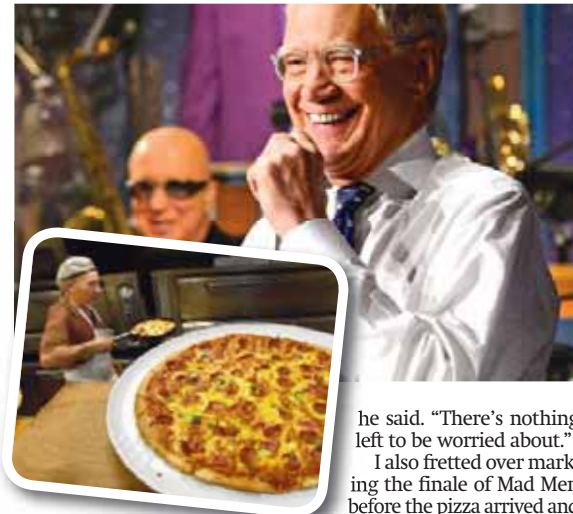
It's ham-fisted, says Simon, and undermines any existential weight the show accidentally has.

Opinions aside, we ordered a Vesuvio party-size Vulcano piz-

za—green olives on half—to watch the series finale on Sunday night, for old times' sake.

Sweet Lord, did that pie bring back memories.

Like watching Letterman after school in the late '80s and early '90s, which we'd tape on VHS



(that's a primitive form of PVR) while scoffing down Pizza Pops. I get all nostalgic about the talk show host, who's been commanding late-night stages for 33 years.

The New York Times recently asked Letterman if he regrets not tweaking his show in order to accommodate new audiences: "I know I can't do what Jimmy Fallon's doing. I know I can't do what Jimmy Kimmel is doing,"

he said. "There's nothing left to be worried about."

I also fretted over marking the finale of *Mad Men* before the pizza arrived and told Simon as much.

"Are you kidding me?" he said, before declaring that it's the only show where the series doesn't live up to the finale. "Are you not even listening to the song I just put on? And look what I'm drinking!"

He was holding a vodka martini with a twist. In the background, Frank Sinatra's *I Get Along Without You Very Well* hummed away.

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BOARD GAME

New dictionary boasts slangy terms such as twerking

"Twerking," "hashtag" and "facetime" are among 6,500 brash new entries in the Scrabble "Bible" that reflect the Internet age but have left traditionalists squirming.

The number of new words in Official Scrabble Words, released by British publishing house Collins, is double the amount added to the previous edition — boosted by slang, pop culture and the web.

"The Internet age has revolutionized the inclusion of slang in dictionaries and Collins' Official Scrabble Words is no exception," said Helen Newstead, head of language content at Collins.

"Now people use slang in social media posts, tweets, blogs, comments, text messages, you name it, so there's a host of



New words have entered the Scrabble dictionary. AFP

evidence for informal varieties of English that simply didn't exist before."

The Collins dictionary, used by enthusiasts of the board game across the world, excluding North America, is updated every four to five years.

Some of the highest-scoring new words that are permissible include "quinzhee," an Inuit snow shelter, and the Yiddish term "schvitz," to sweat.

Also included are onomato-

66

The Internet age has revolutionized the inclusion of slang in dictionaries.

Helen Newstead of publishing house Collins

poetic interjections, or words created from sounds such as "augh," "blech," "eew" and "yeesh."

Not everyone is happy with the changes, with purists objecting to new slangy terms such as "lolz," to denote laughter, "cakehole" for mouth, and "lotsa," for lots of.

Sue Bowman, membership secretary of the Association of British Scrabble Players, told the Daily Telegraph newspaper that the new words were an "abuse of the English language."

"They seem very artificial... It is mainly youth culture and American influence," the 67-year-old said. AFP

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Euro cinema at English-heavy Cannes

'ANGLOPHONE VIRUS'

Filmmakers say nothing has been lost in translation

The Cannes Film Festival is the movies' answer to the United Nations. The filmmakers and media of the world are usually represented in one way or the other. The Croisette, Cannes' seaside promenade, is usually a babble of tongues.

So this year's festival slate of films was greeted with consternation in some corners when a commonality was noticed across many of the festival's in-competition selections: the English language.

Though there are only two American filmmakers in competition for Cannes' Palme d'Or and no British directors, this year's festival is littered with Europe's elite filmmakers working in a language not their own. On a continent that has warily watched English become a kind of de facto common language, fears flared that contemporary European cinema was being lost in translation.

The Guardian said that an "Anglophone virus" was rampaging.

Italy's Paolo Sorrentino on Wednesday premiered his second English-language film, *Youth*, with Michael Cain and Harvey Keitel. Four other notable names in international film — Norway's Joachim Trier, Italy's Matteo Garrone, Greece's Yorgos Lanthimos and Mexico's Michel Franco — are all making their English language debuts. And Québecois filmmaker Denis Villeneuve, an Oscar-nominee for his French language *Incendies*, premiered his English language drug war thriller *Sicario* on Tuesday.

As the festival has unspooled, many directors have defended their decision to switch languages for the sake of creative

curiosity and for the greater opportunities it affords them.

After making the Oscar-nominated *Dogtooth* and his follow-up, *Alps*, Lanthimos moved from Greece to London. His Cannes entry *The Lobster*, starring Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz, certainly showed no loss of idiosyncrasy in its satirical tale of divorcees and single people who face being turned into an animal if they don't find a spouse.

"I don't know what the fuss

"I don't know what the fuss is about

Greek director
Yorgos Lanthimos

is about," Lanthimos said. "It's been always happening in this time and age, people live anywhere in the world, work anywhere in the world. I guess it's a

strange, interesting coincidence. But other than that, I don't think it really means anything. In my case, for sure, it is easier to make a film in the English language and have a few more resources than I did in Greece. So that's part of the choice."

Garrone, the director of the acclaimed mob drama *Gomorra*, made his English debut with *Tale of Tales* despite a deeply Italian story adapted from 17th century Neapolitan fairy tales.



Rachel Weisz in Paolo Sorrentino's English-language *Youth*. CONTRIBUTED

"My choice wasn't premeditated," said Garrone. "The fact that I shot in Italy, the fact that everyone came to my country helped me to no end feel that I had a very close link to my roots and my culture. I didn't feel this was traumatic in any way when I moved from Italian to English."

Such a transition, of course, has been going on for as long as movies have been made, from F.W. Murnau to Roman Polanski to Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.

"I'm not sure if it's a trend. We'll see
Cannes Film festival director
Thierry Frémaux

"If you want to go to the American market maybe you need to have a film in English, but I still think all the great directors make films in their own languages," said festival director Thierry Frémaux, who said English functions like "the new Esperanto." "I'm not sure if it's a trend. We'll see."

Cannes, itself, fosters a cross-pollination of talent. It's the biggest movie market in the world, and many of the international casts at this year's lineup were partly assembled in deals forged at previous visits to Cannes.

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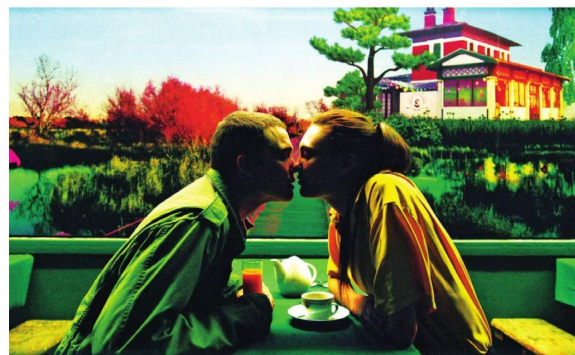
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CANNES OUT-OF-COMPETITION SCREENING

Explicit film *Love* brings graphic 3D sex scenes to screens at Cannes



A scene from the explicit 3D romance *Love*. CONTRIBUTED

The movies are in love with love, but they're often squeamish about sex.

That's not something that can be said about director Gaspar Noé, whose new film *Love* brings graphic sex — in myriad positions, in twosomes, threesomes and groups — to the Cannes Film Festival.

A depiction of turbulent youthful relationships, it's extremely explicit — and it's in 3D. *Love* is full frontal, in-your-face filmmaking.

"I want to make movies out of blood, sperm and tears," said

"I want to make movies out of blood, sperm and tears

Love's male lead

the central male character, an American film student in Paris. That could be Noé's motto, too.

The director wants to smash the convention that keeps graphic eroticism out of mainstream cinema.

Love stars American actor Karl Glusman and European performers Aomi Muyock and Klara Kristin as the members of a turbulent love triangle in Paris. The actors said they were initially uncomfortable with the film's all-baring intimacy, though they came to embrace it.

Love offers an eye-catching mix of sex and 3D, a technology Noé says he used because it was a new challenge.

The film was — unsurprisingly — one of the most anticipated films at Cannes, where

it is playing as a special out-of-competition screening.

Yet some reviewers found it disappointingly limp. The Guardian newspaper called it "50 shades of vanilla."

Whatever the critics say, sex will sell *Love* — and also limit its commercial prospects.

It will probably have a limited release in the United States.

"The Americans, when it comes to film distribution, they can be very square," Noé said.

"I think this movie could never have been done in America. No way." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finding humour in the horror

SHOCK

Metro looks at the lighter side of The Human Centipede films

Chris Alexander
Metro|Life

Even if you haven't had the pleasure (?) of viewing one of filmmaker Tom Six's dubiously iconic films that fall under the The Human Centipede handle, you likely are aware of them.

The franchise — whose third offering, *The Human Centipede 3: Final Sequence*, gets released today — is arguably among the most vile series of horror films ever unleashed, telling their tales of madmen

who think stitching humans together rectum to mouth to form a scatological daisy chain is a good idea.

But beneath Six's sickening shock tactics lurk savvy, transgressive comedies; blackly funny affairs in which scenes of gruesome biological terror serve as the, ahem, butt of the joke.

Here, Metro takes a look at the lighter side of *The Human Centipede* films.



FIRST SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede (2009)

Six's maiden voyage into mad oral/anal science stars German actor Dieter Laser as the psychotic surgeon Dr. Heiter, who opts to kidnap three unfortunate souls to fulfil his dreams of six-legged gory glory. This is a grim, conceptually hideous film and yet there are moments of hilarious absurdity. Laser himself is a cartoon, like something teleported out of the broadest Mel Brooks spoof; he stalks hallways, glowers with bug eyes and goes off on outrageous ranting tangents with theatrical aplomb. Scenes in which he attempts to "train" his creation with a riding crop are sublimely silly as is the moment where he jumps up and down, giggling like a six-year-old while his "centipede" feeds. Gross? Sure. Funny? Absolutely.

FULL SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede 2 (2011)

Six returned two years later with this operatically vile black-and-white sequel. The fact that Six responded to the studio cutting the film by saying, "it's like I made a comedy and they take out all the good jokes!" tells one all you need to know about the film's tongue in (butt) cheek intentions. In it, Martin Lomax (Laurence Harvey) becomes obsessed with the first film and, exploiting his position as a security guard in an underground parking garage, traps victims to make his own super-centipede. Of course, Martin is not a doctor, and what he lacks in surgical know-how, he makes up for with a staple gun and the biggest tub of liquid laxatives ever seen, resulting in vomitous hilarity. HC2 is so far removed from reality and so over the top that it feels like a John Waters movie on steroids.



FINAL SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede 3 (2015)

With this supposedly final film, Six channels Cecil B. DeMille by launching a 500-person centipede using real actors and no CGI. This full-blown meta-comedy sees Laser returning as a megalomaniacal prison warden and Harvey as his smirking sidekick. After watching the first two films, they decide to solve the problem of feeding the inmates by sewing them together. With Laser chewing scenery, Laurence sweating and sniggering, the extreme social commentary of prison overpopulation and the casting of eccentric Hollywood actor Eric Roberts as the leering governor, HC3 is the last word in berserk bad taste and as such, is one of the funniest horror films ever made.



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Emily Blunt calls role 'intelligent argument'

WOMEN AT CANNES

Sicario star uses her work to celebrate women in film

Emily Blunt didn't come to the Cannes Film Festival to talk about shoes.

She may have breezily, without hesitation, called out the silliness of any red-carpet dress code that would turn away women in flat shoes "in 2015," drawing headlines for her matter-of-fact defence of several heel-less guests who were refused admission to a premiere.

Blunt won't hesitate to speak her mind, but she would rather let her actions — and her characters — do the talking.

"We need to take more action and talk less about it," Blunt said in an interview shortly after her *Sicario* premiered at Cannes. "Instead of having nights that celebrate women in Hollywood, we should organize programs where you pay for female writers to develop their skills."

Blunt's skills are prominently on display in *Sicario*, a drug war thriller directed by Denis Villeneuve that's among the films competing in Cannes for the Palme d'Or. As practically the only female in the film, her strong presence anchors *Sicario*.

"I don't ever relate to characters that don't have their s— together in their 30s," says Blunt. "I've been offered a couple of parts like that and I just say, 'I don't relate to it. I don't understand it.' I don't have an interest in playing



I don't ever relate to characters that don't have their s— together in their 30s

Emily Blunt

British actress Emily Blunt at the Cannes Film Festival. BERTRAND LANGLOIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

those kinds of parts. As I get older, I just love seeing people that don't have their head in their hands. I like seeing people who cope."

The performance in *Sicario* has put Blunt among the women who have defined this year's Cannes Film Festival, from Cate Blanchett in the '50s lesbian drama *Carol* to Charlize Theron in the dystopian drag race *Mad Max: Fury Road*, for their solitary strength in male-dominated worlds.

Before Blunt came aboard *Sicario*, there was pressure to change her role to a man.

"It's more an anomaly to see a character like this in cinema," says Blunt.

"But the reality from the FBI agents that I spoke to, there's a lot of chicks in law enforcement. We just don't make movies about them very often."

The 32-year-old Blunt, who's married to actor John Krasinski, hesitated at tackling the grim, brutal tale of *Sicario* (which translates as hitman).

Villeneuve, the Québécois director of *Prisoners* and *Incendies*, met with the British actress four weeks after she gave birth to her daughter. She

was feeling, she says, "the opposite of the character."

"It seemed at the time like a bad fit for me to be doing at that point in my life," says Blunt.

"But I actually thought: This is really good to put out there for my daughter ... for her to see."

"I start to think now, becoming a mother: What am I putting out there in the world and what affect will that have? It's not only a really fantastic role for a woman; it's an intelligent argument."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THRILLER

Villeneuve's look at a violent drug war

Canadian director Denis Villeneuve unveiled his drug war thriller *Sicario* at the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday, premiering a muscular saga that plunges deep into Mexico only to reveal more about the other side of the border.

"For me, the movie's not about Mexico," Villeneuve told reporters. "The movie's about America."

Emily Blunt stars as an FBI agent enlisted to a task force led by a cocky CIA operative (Josh Brolin). They're joined by a mysterious Columbian played by Benicio del Toro. In clandestine raids into Mexico and other illicit activities, they attempt to bring down a cartel boss.

A bleakly violent thriller, *Sicario* is the Québécois director's second collaboration with the revered cinematographer Roger Deakins. Like their 2013 kidnapping drama *Prisoners*,

FEMALE LEAD

Director said no to rewrite

The director acknowledged that there was initially pressure for Emily Blunt's protagonist to be rewritten for a male actor.

it's heavy with allusion to the morality of employing violent military tactics for the sake of American safety.

"We are living in a time where grey zones are more blurred than ever," said Villeneuve.

Del Toro, though, said the drug trafficking drama of *Sicario*, which Lionsgate will release in the U.S. on Sept. 18, is familiar territory for him.

"I'm an old horse when it comes to that problem," the Puerto Rican actor said.

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We are living in a time where grey zones are more blurred than ever

Denis Villeneuve, director of *Sicario*, on the morality of employing violent military tactics for the sake of American safety



Director Denis Villeneuve. LUIS RICARDO MONTEMAYOR CISNEROS

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The songs of summer

Everyone needs an anthem for the sunny days and balmy nights of the fair weather months. Take this quiz to find out what your summer song of 2015 should be.

Emily Laurence METRO NEW YORK



The crowd at this spring's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif. MATT COWAN/GETTY IMAGES

1 How do you plan on celebrating your first Friday of summer?

- a. Spending it with bae
- b. Hitting the beach with your friends
- c. Day drinking outside

2 Sometimes you fantasize about moving to:

- a. Another city
- b. The beach

- c. The country with lots of land

3 What's your dancing style?

- a. You like to get your grind on
- b. Acting silly and jumping around
- c. You don't dance

4 Your ideal partner:

- a. Can cook
- b. Has a bit of a wild side

- c. You can bring home to mom

5 What do you usually change into after work on a Friday?

- a. Something stylish because you usually go out
- b. Your job is pretty laidback, so you usually don't change
- c. Boxers and a T-shirt

6 Your Instagram is mostly photos of:

- a. You're not going to lie. There's a lot of selfies.
- b. Cool street art around the city
- c. Food

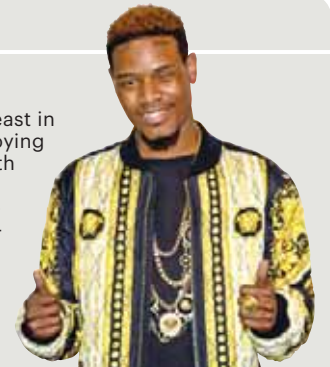
7 Your summer mission is:

- a. Get a VIP pass to a hotel rooftop pool
- b. Take advantage of all the free outdoor concerts
- c. Go on an epic road trip

+ MOSTLY A'S

Trap Queen by Fetty Wap

You're in love — or at least in lust — and plan on enjoying summer's long days with your partner in crime. Whether it's heating up the dance floor or staying home and making pies with your baby, this summer is all about your boo.



+ MOSTLY B'S

Shut Up And Dance by Walk The Moon

This summer, you're looking for adventure and we predict you're in for one heck of a ride if you keep following your "wherever the night may lead" mindset. When you're a "victim of the night," who knows what might happen?



+ MOSTLY C'S

Crushin' It by Brad Paisley

You're happiest drinking a cold one with friends and enjoying the summer sun. You plan on "crushin' it" all summer long.



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One World wonder

From the top of One World Trade Center, videos and multimedia displays reflect the hope and optimism of a tower and a city that rose from the ruins of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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AT THE TOP

Panoramic city views

At the observatory, which opens May 29, visitors can stand on a round video platform that shows an actual livestream of the view straight down. There's also wraparound views stretching 80 kilometres past the Manhattan skyline to the Atlantic Ocean. On the elevator ride down, LED screens surrounding passengers simulate the flight of a bird or plane high above the site, dipping and soaring around the skyscrapers all the way back to the ground.

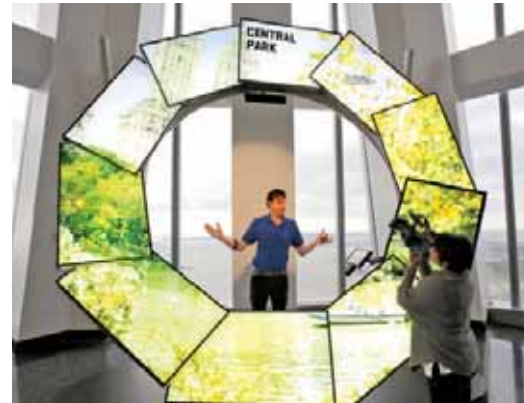
\$32

Price of an adult ticket to One World Observatory. Tickets for seniors cost \$30 and \$26 for children.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT'S IN THE OBSERVATORY

Panels inform visitors

Stepping from the elevator to the One World Observatory, visitors are greeted with display panels showing 3D, bird's-eye scenes of the metropolis. The panels then lift to reveal New York City — right now. There's another display called City Pulse, a ring of high-definition video monitors marking popular city activities, neighbourhoods and "hot spots." A wave of the hand in the direction of any of these subjects opens further details.



This is a reminder of moving forward.

David Checketts,
CEO of Legends,
operator of One
World Observatory



WHEN YOU ENTER

Workers tell their stories

Just above the street-level entrance, faces of men and women who toiled to erect the gleaming, 1,776-foot, 104-storey tower appear in a jagged tunnel that replicates the building's bedrock, their recorded voices filled with both pain and pride. And during the 48-second elevator ride up to the 102nd floor, a 3D, time-lapse panorama shows 515 years of history at the tip of Manhattan, with the twin towers of the original World Trade Center appearing for less than four seconds before dissolving out of view.

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ON THE MOVE

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Whether you're a serious oenophile or simply a tourist looking for a tippie, a vineyard visit is a great way to enjoy outstanding cuisine, get a peek into local culture, and of course, sample wine.



ISTOCK

1 Marlborough, New Zealand

Driving around the towns of Blenheim and Renwick, lovers of Sauvignon Blanc will recognize familiar names such as Cloudy Bay and Villa Maria from the shelves of their liquor stores back home. However, make sure to check out some of unknowns; the Twelve Trees restaurant at the Allan Scott wineries served up an incredible lunch of the area's locally farmed greenshell mussels and the colonial-style Bistro at Hans Herzog is renowned throughout the country. Stay at the charming St Leonards Vineyard Cottages in Blenheim; the Woolshed cottage overlooks the vineyard and an orchard of lemon trees full of goats.

2 Alsace, France

The region of Alsace sits nestled against the Vosges Mountains on the French side of the border between Germany and France. The region produces eight varieties but is best known for its Riesling, which is less sweet than you might expect. The region is relatively small and is best explored by bike. Some of the larger towns of Colmar or Molsheim make good places to base yourself, but make sure to take time to explore the stunning and charming villages in between. Riquewihr is a picture-perfect postcard example of the region's unique architecture, which is influenced by its close proximity to Germany.



PETER REMUS



ISTOCK

3 Okanagan Valley, B.C.

Here in Canada, British Columbia's Okanagan Valley is a great choice, particularly if you are fan of red wine. Headquarter yourself in Kelowna, recognized as the birthplace of the province's wine industry and home to some of the oldest and most established wineries. With a critical mass of more than 25 wineries to visit, there are five established wine trails in the area; Scenic Sip, Fab Five of Kelowna, Grapes & Grains Trail, Lakeshore Wine Route, and Westside Wine Trail. The iconic Mission Hill Family Estate sits on a hill overlooking Lake Okanagan and is a true destination winery. It offers some amazing culinary experiences tying in with the local farm-to-table culture and some signature events, including a fall epicurean dinner and a summer concert series.

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Cocktail culture shakes up city

OTTAWA

Bartenders creating new combinations to sip, savour

Whether celebrating happy hour, going on a date or indulging in a liquid lunch, Ottawa's cocktail scene has plenty on tap.

Gone are the days when the drink with the most alcohol and sugar was the tippie of the week (we're looking at you, Long Island Iced Tea). Now cocktails are appreciated not only for their intoxicating abilities, but also for their flavour profiles.

"Bartenders everywhere have moved towards more traditional, organic cocktail making," said Emily Ienzi, owner of the farm-to-table gastropub Two Six Ate in Ottawa's Little Italy neighbourhood. "People are making their own bitters, infusing spirits, making syrups



Emily Ienzi, left, owner, and Roopa Philar, manager, of Ottawa restaurant Two Six Ate, create cocktails. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

and cordials and using fresh, local ingredients."

With twists on traditional beverages and unique creations, Two Six Ate's list is expansive, and gives a nod to the surrounding Italian community with Campari, Aperol and Prosecco.

The Gin 'n Juice cocktail — gin, grapefruit juice, soda, house grapefruit bitters, peach bitters, lemon juice, allspice, maple syrup and, most notably, a splash of Cynar — had been invented to feature the herb-and-citrus Italian artichoke liqueur.

"I had wanted to (pair Cynar and grapefruit) for a long time," Ienzi said. "I've always thought those flavours could work well together if they were balanced the right way. I think the drink is fun and refreshing and a good example of the types of things we like to make."

Among all the factors that make a great cocktail, "balance" is one word common among bartenders and mixologists, even those new to the scene like Ace Mercado.

Opened in August, the restaurant prides itself on specializing in tequila-based drinks. It's not all margaritas and tequila sunrises though. Ace is highly creative; any patron need only order the Aldasoro to see that.

A mix of tequila and liqueurs, the cocktail is a beautiful purple, but it doesn't stop there. For wow, Ace uses green Chartreuse that is lit and then cooled using liquid nitrogen.

"(We want to) leave each guest with a strikingly unique and memorable experience through each of our different cocktails," said Scott Porter, managing partner of Ace Mercado.

On Elgin Street, the Guest Room, on the top floor of Fresco Bistro, has a speakeasy vibe and is constantly mixing up something new and different.

The bar creates its own fla-

+ IF YOU GO

Where to have a drink in the nation's capital

- Two Six Ate is at 268 Preston St. and is open late. Closed on Tuesdays.
- Ace Mercado is at 121 Clarence St. in the ByWard Market.
- The Guest Room is on the second floor of Fresco Bistro at 354 Elgin St.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

vours of alcohol, from tulip and rosemary-infused gin to tobacco-infused tequila. Staffers make their own syrups, like salted caramel, vanilla and even Guinness. Many drinks are smoked.

The mixologists need a certain amount of swagger to serve the Rat Pack, a \$40 cocktail featuring Jack Daniel's Frank Sinatra Select whiskey and buttered Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky.

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Decades of shovelling snow and maintaining your home in the face of harsh weather can be tedious, stressful and expensive, at best, so perhaps you have begun to re-evaluate your priorities. Local builder StreetSide Developments is finely tuned in to the lifestyle needs of mature Albertans, and its current offerings are definitely worth a look.

Triumph is a new collection of bungalow-lined cul-de-sac communities under construction in Edmonton and Sherwood Park.

"We saw enormous success in Langdale — there are only two properties left there," says sales and marketing manager Barb Lee.

In nearby Ambleside, there are both single-family and maintenance-free bungalow options



CONTRIBUTED

now available, with a single-family development in Sherwood Park's Summerwood subdivision also selling.

The projects are architecturally themed with a distinct look and feel to fit in with the

surrounding neighbourhood, but the interior is customizable. "Finishes like granite in the kitchens, wrought iron railings, hardwoods and high ceilings are standard, but the colour selections are up to each owner's preferences," Lee says.

If nothing else, these spectacular show homes are worth a visit just to see how far bungalows have come. Luxurious master suites and spacious great rooms anchored by large kitchen islands are hallmarks of the Triumph line.

If you are ready to dedicate more time to hobbies, relaxation and perhaps some well-deserved travel, condo living could be for you. Walking through meticulously landscaped grounds, past water features and lovingly accessorized patios, you are overwhelmed by the sense of community amongst the residents of Windsor Estates.

Already a landmark in central Spruce Grove, the final phase of this state-of-the-art condo development has been released. The finely appointed building features resort-like amenities, including a spacious lobby, games room, fitness studio, movie theatre, and two guest suites. Immediate possessions are available.

No matter your needs, StreetSide's lifestyle-oriented home building offers unmatched quality and selection.

For more information about Triumph Bungalows and Windsor Estates, please visit streetsideedmonton.com.



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Review your coverage

When it comes to your health and wellness, most people will happily take action to ensure their needs are well taken care of.

For many people, this includes obtaining health benefits, either through government-sponsored programs or by purchasing their own coverage. While simply having coverage is a key first step, it is also important to make sure the coverage you have is continuing to provide you with the protection you need.

In Alberta, government-sponsored coverage for seniors 65 and older provides a strong base of coverage, but doesn't cover

absolutely everything. For example, you could face significant out-of-pocket costs for dental care, eyeglasses, preferred hospital accommodation and more. In order to avoid surprises and support your healthy lifestyle, it is worthwhile to take a look at additional coverage that would help to supplement your government-sponsored benefits.

It's not always possible to know what kind of coverage will work best for you in the future, but that shouldn't stop you from taking time to review your coverage and make sure it still is working for you.

MEALS ON WHEELS IS EXPANDING

Edmonton Meals on Wheels, the convenient way to receive frozen meals and groceries, is expanding into evening delivery.

The organization already delivers meals from both its hot and frozen meal programs, as well as pet food and groceries, to clients throughout the city during the day.

To make drop-offs for the frozen meals and groceries more convenient for clients who might be busy during this time, the organization has begun making deliveries between 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. This program is exclusively for clients who receive either frozen meals or grocery deliveries.

The move into evening deliveries was made to better accommodate the varying needs of the organization's client base. With the popularity of the Edmonton Meals on Wheels food services growing, it is expected that the evening delivery program could grow to several nights a week.

For more information on the Edmonton Meals on Wheels meals and grocery programs, visit mealsonwheelsedmonton.org or call 780-429-2020.



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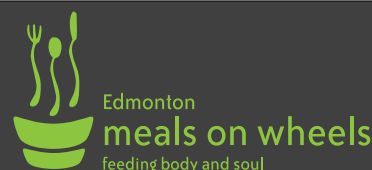


ABC 83315 2015/01

dental care | vision care | podiatrist | chiropractor
preferred hospital accommodation | accidental death benefit



TOP: a Volunteer Delivery Driver loads her Frozen Meal and grocery evening delivery orders into her vehicle. LEFT: a selection of frozen meals available to order.



Seniors are vital part of community

Alberta Seniors' Week is more than just seven days on the calendar.

In fact, it's a huge honour to most seniors to be remembered during this provincial event meant to celebrate and recognize local seniors for their contributions, says Edmonton Seniors Centre executive director Scott McLeod.

"Seniors' Week is important because it's a special week designed to celebrate and thank the seniors who have given so much to our communities in the past and continue to do so even as they age," he says, adding the Edmonton Seniors Centre alone is home to 132

seniors who collaboratively contribute 17,000 hours of volunteering annually.

"We even have 90-year-olds still volunteering daily. It's amazing."

The fabric of the community relies on seniors and, just like most people, they enjoy being honoured, McLeod adds.

There are a variety of events across the province for Seniors' Week, which runs from June 1-7, and many local centres are holding their own celebrations as well. Alberta Seniors Week launches in Strathcona County June 1 at the Ardossan Recreation Complex at 9:30 a.m.

Alberta Seniors communications direc-

tor Jessica Lucenko says Seniors' Week is a perfect time to recognize the seniors in the community who have made a difference.

"Seniors are our parents, grandparents, friends, employers, employees and they are vital parts of the community, and it's a great way to reach out and say thank you to them for all they've done and continue to do. They've helped make our commu-

ities what they are today."

Albertans are encouraged to join the festivities across the province or even plan their own.

"It's more than just celebrating your own family and friends; it's a celebration you can share with the whole community and meet new people," Lucenko says.

For more, visit seniors.alberta.ca.



SHUTTERSTOCK

LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY AGING

With National Seniors Week around the corner, it's the perfect time to discuss health and wellness as it pertains to the elderly.

Geriatric specialists at the University of Alberta are promoting health and wellness in seniors by offering a free seminar dubbed Health and Aging — Dare to Age Well, says U of A geriatric research co-ordinator Dr. Saima Rajabali.

"The idea is to educate seniors in the community about healthy aging and to empower seniors to take charge of their health," she says. "As Canada's population ages, we want to increase awareness about steps we can take toward a better quality of life."

The U of A geriatric team held similar

events in the past and the response was so overwhelming that it decided to continue the popular event with three experts in various fields discussing important topics, including Health Below the Belt, Lifestyle Choices and Bone Health, and Eat Well to Age Well.

"We want to celebrate the week by informing people about healthy aging. We would like to continue these helpful programs in the future, as well."

The event runs June 2 between 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the South East Edmonton Seniors Association (SEESA).

Attendees are asked to confirm their attendance by contacting Sneha Prakash at 780-248-1969 or sneha@ualberta.ca.



CONTRIBUTED

19th Older, Bolder, Better!™ Exhibition

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HEALTH & AGING — DARE TO AGE WELL!

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Health Below the Belt

Speaker: Dr. Adrian Wagg, Professor of Healthy Aging & Geriatrician, University of Alberta

Lifestyle Choices & Bone Health

Speaker: Dr. Angela Juby, Associate Professor and Geriatrician, University of Alberta

Eat Well to Age Well

Speaker: Klara Lorinczi, RD, Clinical Dietitian, Grey Nuns Community Hospital

Ask the experts — these experts will answer your questions on healthy aging. Please be sure to bring your questions.

Facilitator: Dr. Saima Rajabali, Research Coordinator, University of Alberta

When: Tuesday, June 2, 2015
Time: 1:30 — 3:30 pm
Where: South East Edmonton
Seniors Association (SEESA)
9350 82 Street, Edmonton, AB

Please confirm your attendance:
Contact:
Sneha Prakash
Ph: 780-248-1969
Email: sneha@ualberta.ca

met

SPORTS

Your essential daily news

Milos Raonic, who is recovering from foot surgery, withdrew from the French Open

IN BRIEF

Canada's soccer hopes touch down at Pearson

The Canadian women's soccer team touched down in Toronto on Thursday night, their next-to-last stop before kicking off this summer's World Cup in little more than two weeks.

Coach John Herdman and the 23-player Canada roster arrived at Pearson International Airport from Mexico, where they spent the last week undergoing heat training in Cancun.

The host squad will remain in the GTHA until days before the tournament's opening game against China in Edmonton June 6.

The World Cup's other host cities include Vancouver, Montreal, Winnipeg, Moncton and Ottawa.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McIlroy blames mental fatigue for mixed results

Defending champion Rory McIlroy shot a 1-under 71 on Thursday, leaving him six shots behind leader Francesco Molinari at the BMW PGA Championship after a mixed performance he blamed on mental fatigue.

Playing for the fourth straight week, the top-ranked McIlroy failed to recapture the form that saw him surge to a record seven-shot victory at the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow last week.

Molinari carded a flawless 65, closing his round with two straight birdies on the last two holes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ducks back in driver's seat

NHL PLAYOFFS

Andersen makes 27 saves as Blackhawks' PP goes quietly

Frederik Andersen made 27 saves, helping Anaheim kill off five power plays, and the Ducks beat the Chicago Blackhawks 2-1 on Thursday night for a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference final.

Defenceman Simon Despres scored his first career playoff goal in the second period as top-seeded Anaheim bounced back quite nicely from a triple-overtime loss at home in Game 2. Patrick Maroon had a power-play goal and Ryan Getzlaf added two assists.

GAME 3 In Chicago



Ryan Kesler's two holding penalties contributed to more than nine power-play minutes for the Blackhawks, but the Ducks' penalty killers kept most of Chicago's opportunities to the outside and Andersen stood his ground during a couple of goalmouth scrums.

Patrick Kane scored his



The Ducks' Ryan Getzlaf and the Blackhawks' Andrew Desjardins lock up during a faceoff in Game 3 of their Western Conference final on Thursday night in Chicago. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

eighth playoff goal for Chicago, and Corey Crawford made 25 saves.

Game 4 is Saturday night in Chicago.

The teams were tied 1-1 before Despres drove a pass from Getzlaf past Crawford from the right wing with 55 seconds left in the second. Despres came

over in a trade with Pittsburgh in March.

The Blackhawks outshot the Ducks 11-5 in the third, but couldn't get the tying goal as Andersen continued his great run in the playoffs. The 25-year-old Andersen has allowed just 23 goals in 12 games.

While the Blackhawks struggled on the power play, the Ducks capitalized on their only chance with the man advantage. With Marian Hossa in the box for holding, Maroon tipped Hampus Lindholm's long slap shot past Crawford at 12:55 of the first for a 1-0 lead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5-1

The Ducks improved to 5-1 when leading after two periods in the playoffs.

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RECIPE Endive Stuffed with Bok Choy, Carrots, Shrimp and Peanut Sauce



EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

@rosereisman

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 3 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp honey
- ½ tsp minced garlic
- ½ tsp minced ginger
- 3 Tbsp water
- 4 cup chopped baby bok choy
- ¼ cup grated carrot
- 4 oz baby cocktail shrimp
- 10 endive leaves
- ¼ cup chopped green onions

Directions

1. To make the sauce: In a small bowl mix peanut butter, lemon juice, soy sauce, honey, garlic, ginger and water until smooth.

2. In a large skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, add bok choy and stir fry for 3 minutes or just until soft. Add carrots, shrimp and half of the peanut sauce and cook for 1 minute until warm.

3. Spoon into endive leaves and drizzle with remaining sauce. Garnish with green onions.

Nutrition per serving (recipe serves 10)

- Calories 50
- Carbohydrates 5 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Protein 5 g
- Fat 1.5 g
- Sodium 190 mg

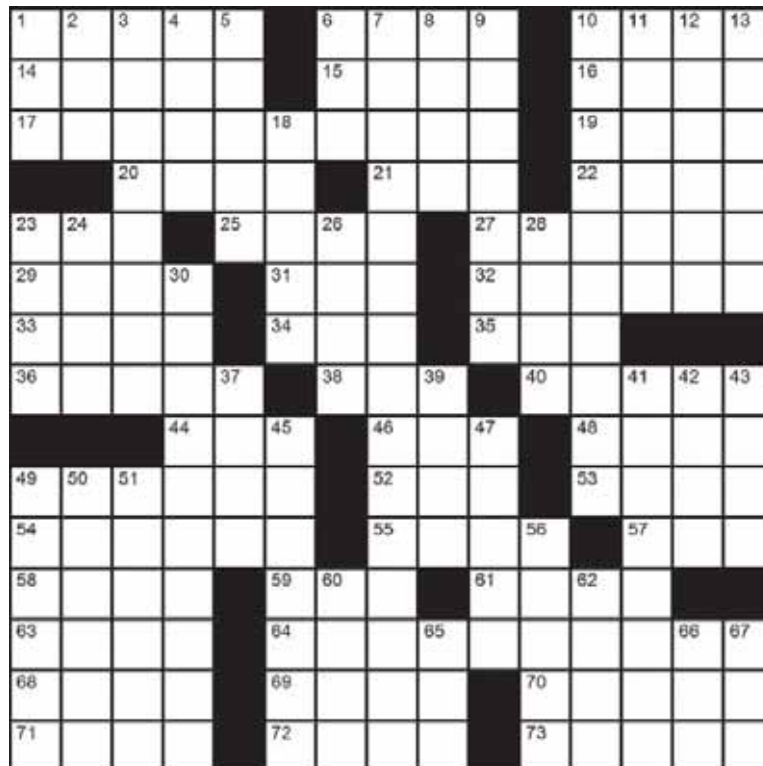
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Ready to rock
- Gladiator's 1700
- Melancholy
- ...-eyed
- Of an important time
- Dokey's pal
- Canadian director, Denis ... (His film at #7-Down is a contender for #3-Down)
- BC footballer
- Slight
- Belg. neighbour
- 'I' and 'M' of IMO
- Fizzle
- Chg. card printout
- Canadian actor Mr. Garber of #7-Down
- Halts
- Esther's "... in Need of a Musical Revolution"
- From times-of-yore
- Glaswegian
- Schedule acronym
- Un-high
- Jeweller's meas.
- Young newt
- Sci-Fi flick extra
- ... few rounds (Spar)
- Swell/ducky
- Pace
- Missing
- 'Favour' suffix
- Kardashians momager
- On the ball: 2 wds.
- Capri pants, ...-length



- Founded [abbr.]
- Epithet for Athena
- Get permission
- Norway's patron saint
- "Freak on a Leash" nu metal band
- Food trucks specializing in french

- fries: 2 wds.
- Crossed out
- Juliette's "The English Patient" (1996) role
- Freshwater fish
- Rivers: Spanish
- Hen's hatchables
- Watched:

2 wds.

DOWN

- Rugged vehicle, commonly
- Pai ... "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (2004) character
- Big prize at the Cannes Film Festival: 2 wds.

tival: 2 wds.

- Writer, ... Stanley Gardner
- Hair tint workers
- Michie ... Canadian rapper
- Starring Emily Blunt, what "Sicario" (2015) is about: 2 wds.
- Bat's hangout

- Quebec municipality northwest of Rouyn-Noranda near the Ontario border
- Criminal investigation component: 2 wds.
- Similar/related: 2 wds.
- Canadian sculptor whose work is featured in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park: 2 wds.
- Skynyrd
- Food packaging meas.: 2 wds.
- Office table
- Empire of yore
- Olivia Newton-John's "Let ... There"
- The Munsters' pet bat
- Behind-the-scenes theatre people
- Ms. Braxton
- Brit's bye-bye
- Neil Simon play, ... in the Park
- Mr. Redding
- Examination
- Business tote, ... case
- Under
- More less asleep, say
- Neil Simon play, ... Blues
- "Connected" by ... MC's
- Shoes to switch into after a night of partying
- ... carpet
- Taj Mahal's site
- Not: French
- Stubby pencil
- Barn abode

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Venus, planet of harmony, is under pressure today but that does not mean you will be too. You will be okay if you refuse to let problems of a domestic nature get you down.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Yes, you appear to have a very thick skin but the fact is you are as easily upset as anyone else and what someone says today may hurt you immensely. Don't take it seriously and try to forgive them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Chances are you will splash out on something that catches your eye today, only to regret it over the weekend when you realize how much it has cost and how little you now have available for other activities. Return it and get a refund.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you throw yourself into a new project today there is every possibility you will be looking for a way to get out of it tomorrow, so think before you act. There are enough existing projects that need to be finished.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The most important thing today and over the weekend is that you make sure that those you help are those who most deserve your help. It's a sad fact of life that some people are happy to live on others' efforts rather than their own.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You must not allow your personal feelings to interfere with what needs to be done on the work front today. Some things are business and some things are personal.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of authority may be annoying but you need to remember that they have more power than you. You will sometimes have to make it look as if you agree.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Although Venus is moving through one of the best areas of your chart you still need to be careful, especially when traveling and socializing. You may be confident that you can handle anything that comes your way but don't tempt fate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you make a small change in one thing today the effects are likely to be much bigger than you expected, so act with care and, if in doubt, don't act at all. Nothing is so important that it has to be dealt with immediately.

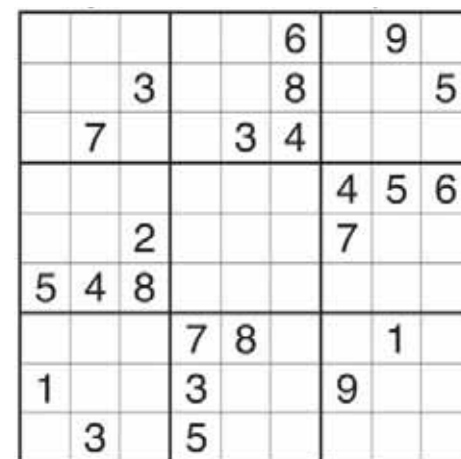
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If life seems too complicated of late it is most likely because you are making it too complicated. How do you make it simpler? Do less — a lot less. Cut back to essentials.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The planets indicate you could fall for someone today or over the weekend who, to say the least, is not really suitable. Have a fling if you must but don't expect the relationship to last.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be able to do a particular task better than just about anyone, but that does not mean you should do it. You have more than enough on the go as it is at the moment, so don't add to your load. Colleagues must share the burden.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



Difficulty Level ★★

5/30

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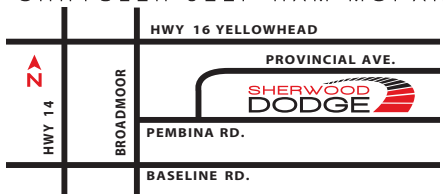
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 Mike Redmond	2013 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW #4R29510B LOADED 33K KMS \$38,860	2008 CHEVOLET AVALANCHE LT CREW #5JN2480A \$19,775	2008 SEBRING TOURING CONVERTIBLE #5DT1845A \$11,775	2014 JEEP COMPASS NORTH #4C09563 \$19,860	2006 RAM 2500 SLT QUAD 4X4 #5R34487A 5.9L CUMMINS \$19,775	2009 RAM 1500 SXT Q/C 4X4 #5GC0533B \$15,775	 Marty Dabrowski
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 Brian Douglas	2013 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA UNLIMITED #4R15244A 2012 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO #5GH9786A 2008 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX #5R15050A 2013 SCION FR-S #5R19368A 2013 HONDA PILOT LX 4X4 #5JN5187A						 Sergiy Maslovsky
 Will Welsh	2013 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA UNLIMITED #4R15244A 2012 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO #5GH9786A 2008 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX #5R15050A 2013 SCION FR-S #5R19368A 2013 HONDA PILOT LX 4X4 #5JN5187A						 Rob Sirianni



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